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Bristol, Pa., February 15, 1965

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rohm and Haas Company,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

FROM: Mr. T. Iezzi

This report covers the activities of cleaning up the waste problem at the Whitmoyer Plant during the period of January 23 to 29.

Construction

Installation of the steel work for the roof of the bin was completed on January 26, and made ready for the timber portion of the roof. On the 27th, after about 30 percent of the roof rafters were installed, the construction of the roof was suspended for an indefinite period because of holdbacks on the DDAA drumming operation and miscellaneous clean-up work and to await the final disposition of the arsenic bearing charcoal and aniline residue materials located in two town dumps.

The construction of the layered plywood, tarpaulin, plastic sheeting bearing deck for the DDAA material was completed on January 23.

Two basins for treated water were constructed on the site of the cleared sludge pile.

Transfers of Waste Materials

An estimated 5,000 to 10,000 cubic feet of clean-up materials, including soil strippings, recovered DDAA fibre drums, and miscellaneous items was transferred to the bin. An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 cubic feet of bin capacity remains unfilled.

The DDAA pile in the southwest field was transferred to the bearing deck and the soil under the pile stripped fordisposal in the bin. The drumming operation and the pile behind the garage was transferred to the bearing deck on January 28 and the area also stripped for disposal in the bin. A considerable quantity of dirt-contaminated loose and drummed material was included in the strippings.

Production of Recovered Well Water

A total of 429,515 gallons of well water containing 10,130 pounds of arsenic was treated during the period. This brings the accumulated total of 1,544,735 gallons and 51,573 pounds of arsenic as of January 29. The wells, with the exception of an electrical failure on well #4 on the 28th, were operated at draw-down capacity. The failure, due to a faulty splice on wire to the pump, required the complete removal of the pump from the 309 foot level to effect the repair before returning it to operation on February 1.

The graphical plots for the wells were returned for correction [illegible], and are not ready for this report.

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Other materials treated included 12,245 gallons of liquid (6,900 ppm As) pumped from the surface of the bin and 300 gallons from the stand pipes of the bin. Also, 7,260 gallons of DDAA waste solution (13,900 ppm) was treated. The material was placed in storage at the time of the arsenical production-shut on December 24.

Attached is a copy of Mr. J. V. Allen's report for the period.

Since the total capacity of the wells is lower than expected, authorization was given the Production Department to make the necessary changes in equipment in order that treatment of well water can be discontinued in the process building and transferred for consolidation in the garage building.

Safety

The production activity of dry arsenical materials both on hand and purchased was done without reported incidence. Attached is Mr. R. Clauser's summary of this activity as well as the summary of the running inventory of arsenic bearing materials on the premises at Whitmoyer Plant.

Miscellaneous

The Production Department was requested to list their products and the contaminants and volumes of the wastes, if any, coming from their manufacture. This data is essential for evaluation purposes in the event the local sewer authority gives permission to tie the Whitmoyer Plant into their sewer system.

There were no visits to the plant site by Health Department officials. Mr. W. Lyon, Director, Division of Sanitary Engineering, was called on January 28 to give him a verbal report of our progress and to invite Dr. G. Emerich, Ground Water Geologist, to participate in the soil and core boring study scheduled to begin February 1. He was convinced of our good intentions and expressed the Health Department's gratitude for the work we are doing. From the conversation,I gathered the State was not undertaking an investigation of past operations at Whitmoyer and was not actively studying for a solution to the cleanup of the existing pollution problems. He believed the critical point in this work has now been passed, and while a permit was not necessary for production without a discharge, it was advisable to get one under the circumstance. He is thinking in terms of a no-arsenic discharge operation and expressed confidence in Mr. J. P. Durr, Regional Sanitary Engineer and Mr. D. A. Lazarchik, Chief, Industrial Wastes Section to properly handle our request to resume production of the arsenical products. He realizes that leaching of arsenic from the soil will continue for some time to the stream.

T. Iezzi

jmc

Attachments